

*Opposes Budget That "Does Not Embrace The Sacrifice, Resilience And Virtue" Of American People*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence gave the following speech from the floor of the U.S. House yesterday during debate of the final version of the congressional budget resolution:

**"Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today in opposition to the Conference Report on the Democrat Budget. I do so following the forceful remarks of the gentle lady from Connecticut, whom I respect as a colleague. She, as the gentleman from California just said, focused a great deal on the last eight years.**

**"And allow me to say as someone who was-in this body and over the last eight years-as my colleagues know, a harsh and public and consistent critic of runaway federal spending under Republican control-allow me to stipulate that the gentle lady makes a point.**

**"The truth is, in the eight years of the Bush Administration's tenure-under Republican control of Congress six of those eight years-we did manage to double the national debt, and that was a disappointment to millions of Americans, me included. And I believe it was part and parcel why the American people in 2006 showed us the door, because they know that we can't borrow and spend our way to a healthy America.**

**"So I'll stipulate to that point, Madam Speaker.**

**"But it doesn't follow or stand to reason that coming to the floor-as the gentle lady from Connecticut just did, and as others have today-and complaining about overspending under Republican control of Congress that the answer would be this budget which would double the national debt in five years, and triple the national debt in ten.**

**"I would expect that it just doesn't make sense to anyone who's looking in-when every American is hurting, every family and small business and family farmer across this country is sitting down, figuring out how to make ends meet, making sacrifices and putting off to tomorrow what they don't have to spend today-to see Democrat majorities in the House and in the Senate bringing to the floor the most fiscally irresponsible budget in American history.**

**"According to the numbers-and I don't want to get lost in the numbers-this budget will result in outlays of \$3.5 trillion for fiscal year 2010 and \$1.2 trillion in deficits in 2010. The deficits in this period never fall below \$500 billion-a number that was roundly criticized when the Bush Administration and Republicans hit it-now accepted to be the norm. And as I mentioned, public debt by 2014 will rise to more than two-thirds as a share of the economy.**

**"It is astonishing to point out that the European Union requires countries to keep their debt below 60 percent of their economy; if this Democrat majority and this Administration have their way, the United States of America by 2014 wouldn't even qualify under the criteria of the European Union-not that I would ever want to join. It just gives a perspective here, Madam Speaker, that what we have before us today is a budget that's out of step with the American people. It's a budget that does not embrace the sacrifice and the resilience and the demonstrated virtue that millions of American families and millions of small businesses are practicing today.**

**"The truth is we can do better. The truth is the American people know that this Congress has the capacity-even during these difficult times-to do the right thing, to take our jackets off, to roll our sleeves up, and to do the hard work.**

**"I look across the aisle and I see the gentleman with whom I serve-and whom I deeply respect-and I have to believe that there are many colleagues on the other side of the aisle who also know: this we ought not to do.**

**"After a so-called stimulus bill that spent a trillion dollars, an omnibus bill that increased spending by eight percent for last year's business and now the most fiscally irresponsible budget in American history-enough is enough.**

**"The American people want this Congress to begin to practice fiscal discipline and reform, and we ought to do so by rejecting this Conference Report, and I urge my colleagues to do so."**

### BACKGROUND:

The House passed the budget conference report (S.Con.Res.13) today - a compromise between the House and Senate versions of the annual budget blueprint for congressional spending - by a vote of 233-193. The conference report will next be voted on by the Senate.

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 establishes the congressional budget process as the means by which Congress coordinates the various budget-related actions (such as the consideration of appropriations and revenue measures) taken by it during the course of the year. The process is centered around an annual concurrent resolution on the budget that sets aggregate budget policies and functional spending priorities for at least the next five fiscal years. Because a concurrent resolution is not a law-it cannot be signed or vetoed by the President-the budget resolution does not have statutory effect. Revenue and spending amounts set in the budget resolution establish the basis for the enforcement of congressional budget policies through points of order.

Congress implements budget resolution policies through action on individual revenue and debt-limit measures, annual appropriations acts, and direct spending legislation. In some years, Congress considers reconciliation legislation pursuant to reconciliation instructions in the budget resolution. Reconciliation legislation is used mainly to bring existing revenue and direct spending laws into conformity with budget resolution policies. Initially, reconciliation was a major tool for deficit reduction; in recent years, reconciliation has been used mainly to reduce revenues. This budget sets up a budget reconciliation process that could be used to fast-track healthcare, education or energy legislation.